

Winter Storm Management Environmental Overview

Stakeholder Meeting Summary

May 5, 2008

As part of a consensus building effort by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Winter Storm Management of Arizona State Highways Environmental Overview (EO), a stakeholder meeting was held on Monday, April 28, 2008, at the ADOT Prescott District Office in Prescott, Arizona. One hundred stakeholders across the state were identified and invited to attend. A copy of the Final Draft EO was made available via the internet, and the meeting was held to address any questions or concerns by stakeholders. This summary outlines the issues identified during the stakeholder meeting.

A small and vocal group of internal and external (to ADOT) stakeholders were in attendance. United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service representatives and maintenance personnel from northern Arizona municipalities affected by heavy winter storm activity comprised the majority of attendees. Several issues were identified during the Question & Answer/Comment Period:

- Roadside biological monitoring of tissue is limited to plant tissue only.
- From an operations standpoint, it is good to have the agency (ADOT) provide operations guidelines; however, public education on "how to drive in that stuff" is key.
- Abrasive use is common in this state and has been for many years, how will reduction of use be accomplished?
- There is a new, corn-based product that is American Public Works Association approved. The project team should consider use of this product.
- Be careful not to tie agencies down.
- Leave room for appropriate use for varying conditions.
- Truck drivers should be educated in winter storm driving.
- No fatal flaws have been identified by attending agencies.
- Interagency cooperation is a must, and has been historically practiced successfully.
- All chlorides are damaging and elevated levels can be found in roadside plants; cutting plants back is a strategy which would eliminate this and provide more roadway safety.
- At various elevations, there is public expectation as to methods used to keep roadways safe and open.

Each question and comment was responded to and discussed by the project team. The discussion focused on how the adaptive management approach would give ADOT Operations personnel the opportunity to review, revise, and adapt Winter Storm Management Operations to best meet present and future needs. Stakeholders indicated they appreciated this approach, as it would allow the opportunity to change the process in the future. As AMEC Project Manager, Ed Latimer indicated during the discussion, "The Winter Storm Management Operations Manual adopted as a result of this EO should not be a 'snapshot in time,' but a flexible document which can be expanded as technology moves forward and changed to accommodate yet-unidentified needs."

An outreach regarding this stakeholder meeting will be made to all stakeholders. The project team will accept stakeholder comments throughout the public comment period, which ends on June 6, 2008. Attendance at the stakeholder meeting by interested agencies is appreciated by the Winter Storm Management of Arizona Highways EO Project Team as we work to create sustainable Winter Storm Management Operations that ensure ADOT Level of Service goals are met.